

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 12-21 and 35-45 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 24, 25, 28-30 and 32-34 have been amended. Claims 46-62 are newly added. No new matter has been added.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300 to schedule a telephone interview, in the event the Examiner does not find the present application to be allowable after considering this response.

Summary of Final Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari et al. (USPN 6,516,344, "Nazari") in view of Pothapragada and further in view of Hamilton et al. (USPN 6,701,420, "Hamilton"). Claims 3, 26 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari in view of Pothapragada and Hamilton and further in view of Keller. Claims 5, 28 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari, in view of Pothapragada and Hamilton and further in view of Bereznyi. Claims 6, 29 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari, in view of Pothapragada and Hamilton and further in view of Crow. Claims 9, 32 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari, in view of Pothapragada and Hamilton and further in view of Schmuck et al. (USPN 5,956,734, "Schmuck"). Claims 11, 22, 23, 34 and 45 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nazari, in view of Pothapragada and Hamilton and further in view of Bonwick (USPN 6,725,244).

Discussion of Rejections

New claim 46 recites:

46. (New) A method comprising:
 receiving at a storage server a request for a space reservation for a data set managed by the storage server; and
 in response to the request,
 computing a number of blocks needed to be reserved for the data set, and
 reserving for later allocation a number of unallocated blocks equal to the computed number of blocks. (Emphasis added.)

The cited references do not disclose or suggest, either individually or in combination, a method such as recited in claim 46, and in particular, *reserving for later allocation* a number of unallocated blocks in response to a request for a space reservation for a data set managed by the storage server. The Examiner has cited Nazari at col. 1, line 63 to col. 2, line 16 for the limitation of “a fourth number of unallocated blocks *to be reserved* to accommodate the file size” (see rejection of claim 1, Final Office Action, p. 3)(emphasis added). However, it must be recognized that the actual allocation of storage space, such as disclosed in Nazari, is not the same as (or any suggestion of) a *reservation* of storage space *for later allocation*, as in the present invention. Nazari does not teach or suggest *reserving for later allocation* a number of unallocated blocks in response to a request for a space reservation for a data set managed by the storage server, nor does Nazari indicate why doing so would be

desirable. Likewise, Applicants do not find any disclosure of this functionality or a motivation to achieve it in the other cited references.

Therefore, claim 46 and all claims which depend on it are patentably distinguishable from the cited art.

All of the other pending independent claims now include a limitation substantially similar to the limitation discussed above regarding claim 46. Therefore all of Applicants' other pending independent claims, and all claims which depend on them, are also patentably distinguishable from the cited art for similar reasons as claim 46.

In addition, new independent claim 55 further includes the following limitations:

performing a write operation to write data to the file by
determining whether a block reservation has been performed
for the file, and
**in response to determining that a block reservation has
been performed for the file, allocating one or more blocks for said
data in the file system without determining whether enough blocks
are available in the file system for completing the write operation.**
(Emphasis added.)

Note that this limitations are supported in Applicants specification in (at least) Fig. 7 and the corresponding text in the specification. Applicants find no disclosure or suggestion in the cited references of, as part of a write operation, and in response to determining that a block reservation has been performed for a file, allocating one or more blocks for said data to be written in the file system *without determining whether enough blocks are available in the file system for completing the write operation.*

Therefore, claim 55 is additionally patentable over the cited art for this additional reason.

Note that a substantially similar limitation also is present in dependent claim 47, which is also additionally patentable over the cited art for essentially this same reason.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

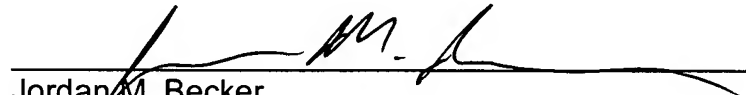
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 1/22/2007


Jordan M. Becker
Reg. No. 39,602

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300